



The Office of the National Coordinator for
Health Information Technology

A User's Guide to Understanding

Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) Draft 2



Why do we need the Trusted Exchange Framework and the Common Agreement?



What is the structure of the Common Agreement?



What privacy and security requirements are included in the Common Agreement?



What are the Trusted Exchange Framework and the Common Agreement?



How do you become a QHIN?



Next Steps



Major updates to Draft 2 of the TEF and MRTCs



What can the Common Agreement be used for?

This informational resource describes select proposals in the TEFCA but is not an official statement of any policy. Please refer to the official version of the TEFCA.

VISIT [WWW.HEALTHIT.GOV/TEFCA](https://www.healthit.gov/tefca) TO VIEW THE TEFCA DRAFT 2.



Cures Act Language

21st Century Cures Act - Section 4003(b)

“[T]he National Coordinator shall convene appropriate public and private stakeholders to develop or support a trusted exchange framework for trust policies and practices and for a common agreement for exchange between health information networks. The common agreement may include—

“(I) a common method for authenticating trusted health information network participants;

“(II) a common set of rules for trusted exchange;

“(III) organizational and operational policies to enable the exchange of health information among networks, including minimum conditions for such exchange to occur; and

“(IV) a process for filing and adjudicating noncompliance with the terms of the common agreement.”

“[T]he National Coordinator shall publish on its public Internet website, and in the Federal register, the trusted exchange framework and common agreement developed or supported under paragraph B...”





Goals



GOAL 1

Provide a single
“on-ramp” to
nationwide connectivity



GOAL 2

Electronic Health Information
(EHI) securely follows you
when and where it is needed



GOAL 3

Support nationwide
scalability



What is the Trusted Exchange Framework?

The **Trusted Exchange Framework** is a set of common principles that are designed to facilitate trust among Health Information Networks (HINs).



The Trusted Exchange Framework (TEF)

Principle 1 – Standardization: Adhere to industry and federally recognized standards, policies, best practices, and procedures.

Principle 2 – Transparency: Conduct all exchange and operations openly and transparently.

Principle 3 – Cooperation and Non-Discrimination: Collaborate with stakeholders across the continuum of care to exchange EHI, even when a stakeholder may be a business competitor.

Principle 4 – Privacy, Security, and Safety: Exchange EHI securely and in a manner that promotes patient safety, ensures data integrity, and adheres to privacy policies.

Principle 5 – Access: Ensure that individuals and their authorized caregivers have easy access to their EHI.

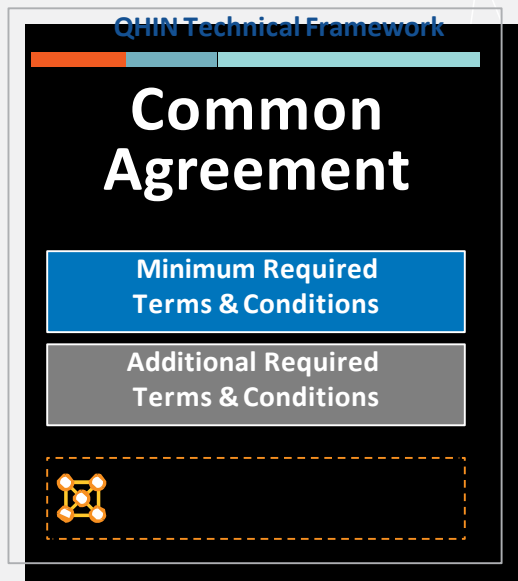
Principle 6 – Population-Level Data: Exchange multiple records for a cohort of individuals at one time in accordance with applicable law to enable identification and trending of data to lower the cost of care and improve the health of the population.





What is the Common Agreement?

The **Common Agreement** will provide the governance necessary to scale a functioning system of connected HINs that will grow over time to meet the demands of patients, clinicians, and payers.



Minimum Required Terms & Conditions (MRTCs): ONC will develop mandatory minimum required terms and conditions that Qualified Health Information Networks (QHINs) who agree to the Common Agreement would abide by.

Additional Required Terms & Conditions (ARTCs): In addition to the MRTCs, the Common Agreement will include additional required terms and conditions that are necessary for the day-to-day operation of an effective data sharing agreement. The Recognized Coordinating Entity (RCE) will develop the ARTCs and ONC will have final approval.

QHIN Technical Framework (QTF): Signatories to the Common Agreement must abide by the QHIN Technical Framework, which specifies functional and technical requirements for exchange among QHINs. The RCE will work with ONC and stakeholders to modify and update the QTF.

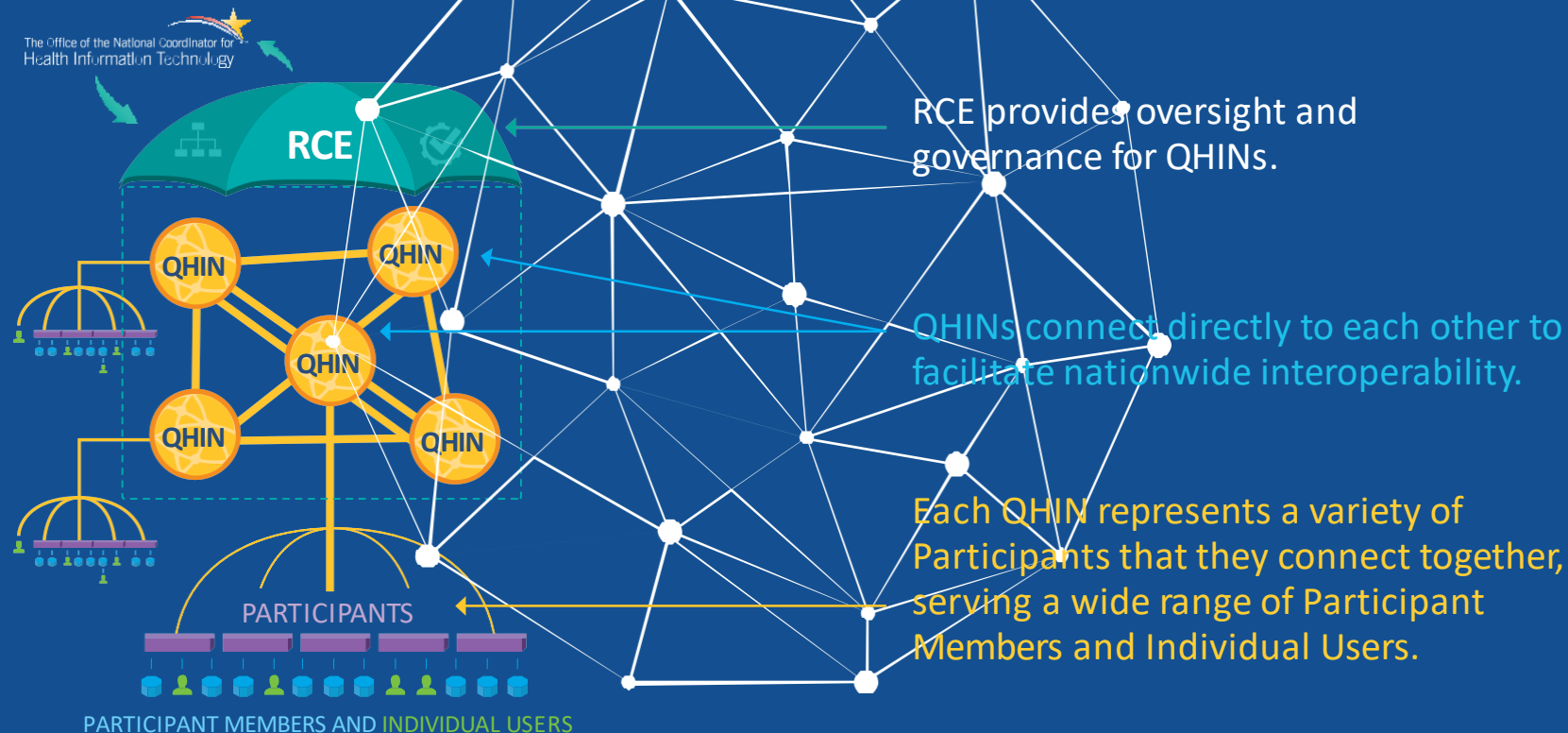


Stakeholders who can use the TEFCA





How Will the Common Agreement Work?



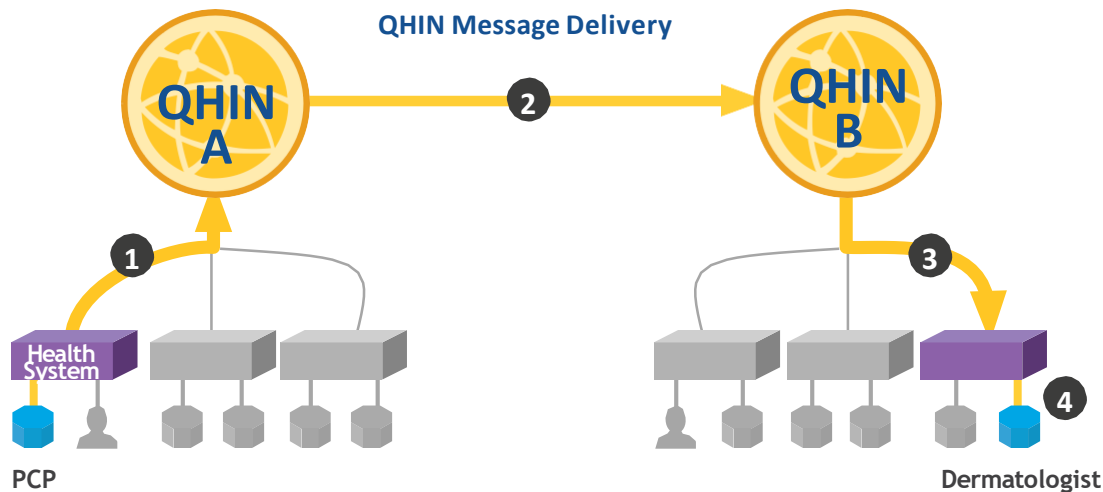


Exchange Purpose Example



TREATMENT*

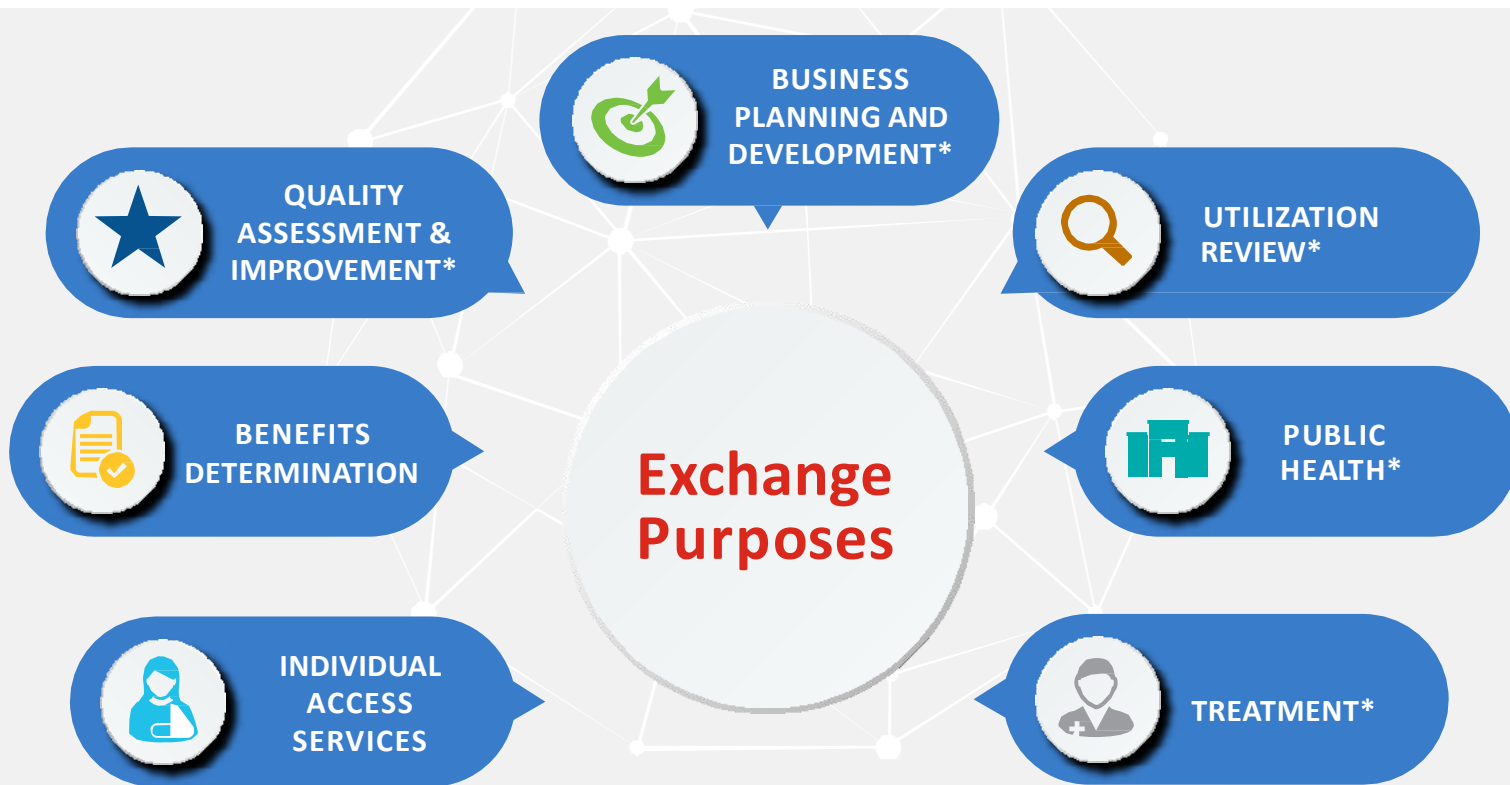
- 1 Primary Care Provider (PCP) (Participant Member) refers patient to Dermatologist, and sends care summary to QHIN A for Treatment
- 2 QHIN A initiates QHIN Message Delivery to send care summary to the appropriate QHIN B
- 3 QHIN B sends care summary to the appropriate Participant
- 4 Participant delivers care summary to the Dermatologist (Participant Member)



**Only applies to HIPAA covered entities and business associates*



Exchange Purposes



**Only applies to HIPAA
covered entities and
business associates*



Exchange Modalities



QHIN Broadcast Query

A QHIN's electronic request for a patient's EHI from all QHINs.



QHIN Targeted Query

A QHIN's electronic request for a patient's EHI from specific QHINs.



QHIN Message Delivery (Push)

The electronic action of a QHIN to deliver a patient's EHI to one or more specific QHINs.





Timeline

